



*A place where families and businesses thrive.*

**CITY OF FOREST GROVE  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM  
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.**

---

**MEETING MINUTES Approved by Commission on May 23, 2019.**

---

**CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.**

**Sustainability Commission Present:**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Amber Nieves     | Johanna Peeters Weem |
| Fallon Harris    | Tabitha Merten       |
| Kenneth Cobleigh | Robin Lindsley       |
| Jacob Rose       |                      |

**Absent, Excused:** Lilly Meek

**Council Liaison:** Elena Uhing

**Staff:** Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator

**Guests:** Teva Needleman, Pacific University; Brian Schimmel, Old Town Church

- 1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:** Brian Schimmel updated the Commission regarding the Anti-Poverty Workgroup. The shelter had 140 guests and 170 volunteers, navigated three people into housing, and seven approved for housing. A lack of housing and applicants qualifying for housing continue to be the main barriers. Harris, Merten, and Cobleigh expressed interest in getting involved in the program.

Teva Needleman updated the Commission that Pacific University received a grant to fund the development of a free food resource app. The app would connect community members who have surplus food with those in need of food, and an additional feature would allow the user to use Google maps to navigate to the location. Pacific University is also hosting a Bees and Trees Festival on Saturday, April 27, to become a certified tree and bee campus. Pacific University is moving from Aramark to Bon Appetite. Fallon inquired what will happen to current Aramark employees, Needleman is unsure.

- 2. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:** Rose discussed getting Pacific University students involved in the outreach program of the commercial food waste composting initiative with an emphasis on educating businesses. Merten updated the Commission on PlanetCon, June 1, 2019, from 11am – 2pm at Century High School in Hillsboro. She encouraged participation from the group, possibly a welcome table at the event.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:** Nieves moved to approve minutes of March 28, 2019, meeting as presented. Minutes were approved with one change from Harris regarding the Children's Gardening Books mini-grant: Harris would like to see equitable distribution and access.
- 4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:** Delete agenda item #8, replace with Low Flow Toilets rebate.

5. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:** Councilor Uhing states that each Council member has a different idea and definition of equity and seeks input from the Commission. Commission members contributed to the discussion of equity by offering their definition or thoughts about equity to the group. Councilor Uhing informed the group that equity is important to Metro and is becoming a state-wide initiative. Needleman offered her thesis research to the Commission regarding equity and engagement. Harris to share her equity statement with the group via email.
6. **EARTH DAY LITTER EVENT:** Update from Peeters Weem – Successful event with roughly 46 families and nine volunteers in attendance, and they accomplished their goal of getting trash off the streets. The recycling effort wasn't feasible due to low volume of eligible recycling items. Harris and Peeters Weem would like to see the next event be more of a gathering and discussion, possibly with games, activities, and community booths. There might be a chance to partner with other groups or cities, and Councilor Uhing suggested a banner might draw more attention to the event. Commission members were interested in hosting the event twice yearly – April and September.
7. **SCHOOL GARDENS:** Update from Harris – Groundbreaking ceremony at Cornelius Elementary school was successful with six Pacific University students, Lions Club members, Congresswoman Bonamici, students' families, and over 150 children. Children planted seeds, volunteers moved soil and built beds.
8. **LOW FLOW TOILET REBATE:** Councilor Uhing requested the Commission to discuss whether or not they would like to support the rebate initiative and, if so, to submit a letter of recommendation. Nieves moved to support the program, Harris second, unanimous approval.
9. **FARM TO SCHOOL BILL (HB 2579):** Nieves looking for Commission endorsement of the Farm to School Bill. Councilor Uhing would like staff to explore the legalities prior to endorsement.
10. **COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:** Update from Councilor Uhing – Consensus from Council on new rules for Boards and Commissions; a final vote will happen in a couple of weeks. The chair term limits changed from two years to four years. Who will take meeting minutes will be up to the Commission to decide. Reminder from Councilor Uhing for the Commission to follow the guidelines for CEP mini-grants. City received two awards from Clean Water Services and Washington County Visitors Association to put in two bike repair hubs. LED lights have Notable dates/events:
  - Vision Action Network 4/29
  - CEP allocation due 5/3, Discussion 5/6
  - Healthcare Forum 5/7, 5/15 & 5/29
  - Housing and rent burden conversation 5/14
  - Project Action for Equitable Development
  - CCI is considering a focus on partnership with League of Women Voters for the next Annual Town Meeting
  - Library's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October

**11. STAFF REPORT:** Staff to begin discussion regarding Metro's food waste ordinance in May, the solar panel study results are not in yet but getting close.

**12. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:**

- City-wide litter pick up twice yearly
- Harris – what is needed for school gardens in the coming year

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** Nieves adjourned the meeting at 7:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator  
City of Forest Grove

Approved by the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission:    Date: 5/23/19